Eradication of Child Labour

*182. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have addressed any communication to the Chief Ministers of States, where incidents of child labour are endemic, emphasizing the need for a continuous dialogue on the progress of child labour eradication;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the response of each State Government in this regard and the steps taken to ensure the elimination of child labour in carpet and other hazardous industries;

(d) whether Government have received any periodical report from the State Governments in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when Government expect total eradication of child labour in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The Hon'ble Prime Minister had announced on 15th August, 1994 that 20 lakh children engaged in hazardous occupations will be withdrawn from work and put into schools in the course of next 4-5 years. As a follow-up to this announcement, a National Authority for the Elimination of Child Labour (NAECL) has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Union Labour Minister. The NAECL has adopted a Circular on "Identification, Release and Rehabilitation of Child Labour". This Circular has already been forwarded to all the State Governments by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. This Circular covers the range of actions to tackle the child labour problem especially in hazardous occupations. Briefly, it calls for a convergence of services and schemes of the Central and State Governments at the implementing level—the District level to effectively handle the child labour elimination effort.

In addition to the above, the NAECL has also identified 100 districts which as per 1981 census data are located in 11 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Orissa, Gujarat and West Bengal which together account for over 90% of the child labour population in the country. The Chief Ministers of these 11 States have been addressed requesting them to depute the District Collectors of these 100 district to participate in the Workshop which is scheduled to be held in new Delhi on 13-14th September, 1995. The concerned Collectors have been requested to prepare project proposals in their respective districts based on the National Child Labour Project Scheme.

(c) Responses from the State Governments in response to the Prime Minister's letter are being received. The State Governments of Assam, Bihar Delhi, Gujarat, Punjab, Daman & Diu, Dadra Nagar Haveli, Maharasthra, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Rasjasthan, Karnataka, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Haryana, Orissa have already responded positively.

(d) & (e) It has been estimated that an amount of Rs. 850 crores would be required to eliminate 20 lakhs child labour from the hazardous occupations which includes the carpet industry, by the year 2000. An allocation of Rs. 34.4 crores has been made for the current year to undertake projects for children withdrawn from work.

Sugar Production

*183. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the total sugar production expected in the country during the current crushing season;

(b) whether this is expected to meet the total requirement of the country;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to export sugar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The sugar production during the current 1994-95 sugar season is likely to be about 143.00 lakh tonnes.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the sufficient availability of sugar, the Government have decided to allow export of sugar. Permission has already been granted to export 50,000 tonnes of sugar.